

NJ Wildlife Updates

For Licensing Agents and Fish & Wildlife Constituents

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Director's Message



NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF
Fish and Wildlife

Those of you familiar with the Division have probably noticed something very different on this page. Yes, we have a new logo. The new logo will be phased in gradually as signs are replaced, publications revised, etc.

In 1999, legislation changed the name of the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife to the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Over the last year, we have been exploring options for a logo that more accurately reflected the many species and habitats that are protected and managed by the Division. Many of you helped us decide on the current logo through your review and feedback on the website where we displayed a proposed version that did not include the deer that is on the logo now. Due to your input, we knew it was important to our core constituency to include a game animal, which many of you felt should be the deer. We also learned there was some nostalgia associated with the old logo. Hopefully, we satisfied both issues by using a part of the old logo on our new logo. A comparison of the old and the new will show we used the head of the deer on the old logo for the new logo. We appreciate your input and thank you for your help in creating the new logo.



Bob McDowell, Director

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DIVISION & COUNCIL ANNOUNCE CHANGES TO 2001-02 GAME CODE

The New Jersey Fish and Game Council adopted changes to the 2001-02 Game Code on June 21. The Fish and Game Council is responsible for adopting annual revisions to the Game Code which describes procedures, dates, locations and harvest limits regarding the hunting, trapping and possession of game birds, game mammals and furbearers in the State.

A summary of changes to the 2001-2002 Game Code follows:

1. Pheasant boundaries have been adjusted, including slight modifications to major zone boundaries to account for new highways, name changes, etc. Pheasants of either sex may now be taken in Pheasant Zone 3.
2. Turkey Season
 - a. Youth turkey hunters no longer must be accompanied by parent/guardian. Licensed hunters over 21 may take youth hunters afield.
 - b. There will be a Youth Turkey Hunting Day on Saturday, April 13, 2002. Youth hunters under the direct supervision of a non-shooting adult (21 years or older), may use either a shotgun or bow and arrow, and must possess a current and valid Youth Hunting License and a valid permit for the hunting area. All other hunting requirements for the regular Spring Wild Turkey Gobbler Season will apply.
 - c. The general & private turkey hunting permits are eliminated. An additional week has been added onto the front of the season to allow more permits to be available. This will allow a fifth day for the "G" Saturday segment. Quotas for zones with an abundance of private land have been increased.
 - d. In an effort to increase participation, the Fall Turkey Season for 2002 will be one 6-

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GAME CODE (continued)

day segment Monday, October 28 - Saturday, November 2, 2002. During this time, there will be no fall turkey hunting in Turkey Hunting Areas 12, 14, 15, 16, 21 and 22.

3. Coyote Season

The February 2002 Coyote season will include night hunting with shotgun only. In order to gauge participation, the permit requirement is re-instituted for both day and night hunting.

4. Deer Seasons

a. A Youth Deer Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, November 17, 2001. Youth hunters with a valid Youth Hunting License will be allowed to hunt in all zones open for the Six-Day Firearm Season for one deer on Saturday, November 17, 2001. The youth hunter MUST be under the immediate supervision of a person who is at least 21 years old and who has a valid firearm license. For the purposes of this section, direct supervision is defined as both the youth hunter and parent/guardian set up together at the same location, hunting as a unit and not hunting independently of each other. The adult CANNOT hunt or possess a firearm. The adult can grunt call or rattle for the youth. In addition to the youth, the adult accompanying the youth should wear the required orange. Youths can hunt with either a shotgun or muzzleloader for one deer of either sex. If the youth is hunting with a muzzleloader, the youth and the adult must have a valid rifle permit. Neither the earn-a-buck requirement nor antler point restrictions will apply on that day for the youth hunter. This hunt will be an extension of the Six-Day Firearm season so no special season deer permit is required. The youth hunter must tag his/her deer with a homemade transportation tag. The tag must include the youth hunting license number, sex of deer, number of antler points, date, zone, county and township the deer was taken from, and must say "taken during the 6-Day Firearm Season Youth Hunt." The youth hunter will not be given a supplemental tag when he/she checks in the deer. The bag limit for the youth hunt day is only ONE deer of either sex.

b. In an effort to simplify deer regulations, eight sets of regulations regarding season dates and bag limits have been established and will apply to all but special area zones. The most conservative "Set 1" applies to Zone 4 only. The most liberal "Set 8" will apply to Earn-a-Buck zones.

c. The Fish and Game Council and the Division of Fish and Wildlife are initiating a new trial sale process for deer permits starting this fall. Permits for most zones will be available for over-the-counter sale at participating license agents throughout the state.

Hunters should note, however, that a lottery was conducted for the following more limited zones: 3, 4, 18, 23, 24, 37, 38, 43, 46, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 64 and 67 ONLY. The application period was June 1 through August 31. Leftover permits for the lottery zones will be sold only at Division offices.

Bow permit sales at license agents began on Saturday, September 1. Shotgun and muzzleloader permit sales will begin on Saturday, October 13. All permit sales at license agents will end on December 31, 2001. If a hunter wishes to purchase a permit from January 1, 2002 through the end of the deer season, he or she will be able to do so at the Pequest Trout Hatchery and the Division office in Trenton ONLY.

d. The type of gunpowder that is legal to use with muzzleloaders has been clarified. Legal powder will be "black powder, pyrodex or black powder equivalent." Smokeless powder is prohibited.

IMPORTANT 2001-2002 DEER PERMIT CHANGES

In order to better serve our constituents, the Division of Fish and Wildlife is instituting a trial over-the-counter deer permit sales program for the upcoming season. As part of this new procedure, permits for most zones will be available for over-the-counter sale at participating license agents throughout the state. In an attempt to curb a growing deer population, permit quotas in most zones have been greatly increased over the past several years. Based on the quota numbers and total amounts of permits sold in these zones during the last deer season, the Division does not anticipate that these zones will sell out. As a result, these zones will be available for over-the-counter sale via license agents. Information pertaining to these sales is available in the hunting issue of *New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Digest* and on our website www.njfishandwildlife.com.

THE NEW JERSEY STATE FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS, INC.

www.NJSFSC.org

The New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc. (NJSFSC) is a statewide, non-profit, non-government, non-partisan organization of New Jersey citizens interested in the wise management of the state's natural resources, the conservation of its soils, waters, forests, fish, wildlife, and minerals, and the promotion of healthful outdoor recreation for all.

The NJSFSC is a federation of sporting clubs throughout New Jersey with chapters in each county of the state. These chapters meet monthly and are made up of representatives from sporting clubs within the counties and individual sportsmen and women. The NJSFSC represents 150,000 sportsmen and women through individual memberships and club affiliations. Following are the purposes of the Federation and the benefits offered to participating members.

At the state level, the Federation is the only organization in the state that works with the Assembly and Senate on all legislation concerning hunting, fresh and saltwater fishing, trapping, and firearms, as well as conservation and environmental issues. The Federation tracks and provides information on hundreds of bills or proposed bills to members through both the monthly newspaper and through the county organizations. The Federation nominates to the Governor six of the eleven members of the Fish and Game Council. This council has the responsibility of adopting the game and fish codes that govern the sports.

At the county level the monthly meetings are used to disseminate information and gather the opinions of members on issues affecting the sports. A Fish and Game Council Member as well as a Division of Fish and Wildlife employee attend these meetings. Progress of proposed legislation is discussed in each county at every monthly meeting. Issues such as: license fees, trout stocking, game seasons, limits and wildlife management area development are discussed. Direct input from members is solicited and encouraged. The NJSFSC is proud of the positive impact they have had on the management of our natural resources because of this direct contact with the Council and Division.

Individual membership in the Federation provides a monthly newspaper that highlights environmental, legislative and sporting issues and information for the NJ sportsmen and women. In addition individual members are able to secure a \$1,000,000 personal liability policy that covers the member while hunting, fishing or trapping anywhere in the United States, its possessions or territories in Canada. Coverage includes legal use of bow and arrow and firearm for target shooting either in practice or competition. All members are eligible to hold office in the Federation or to run for positions on the Fish and Game Council. Contact Judy DeStephano, PO Box 742, Newfoundland, NJ 07435 or call 973-697-0919 for NJSFSC membership information.

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE'S WEBSITE TAKES 3RD PLACE IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

The Division of Fish and Wildlife was recently awarded third place for its website, www.njfishandwildlife.com, at the 2001 Association for Conservation Information's (ACI) national conference held July 8-12 in Cape May, New Jersey.

ACI is an international network of professional natural resource conservation communicators from the U.S. and Canada, including representatives from state and federal agencies as well as private organizations. Founded in 1938, it is the oldest and largest association of its kind in the country.

"It is extremely gratifying to be recognized by the national Association for Conservation Information," said Division Director Bob McDowell. "We have put a lot of time and effort into making our website an informative, fun and user-friendly experience. It is a valuable learning tool that enables us to reach a vast audience with news and information about wildlife in New Jersey."

Highlights of the Division's website includes monthly feature articles, the latest news releases, on-

line fishing license sales, current regulations, places to fish, endangered species information and a wealth of educational resources as well as links to other environmental websites.

Recently an expedition to the Arctic by Division Endangered and Nongame Species biologists, part of an on-going study of migratory shorebirds, provided daily reports and photos of their work. Another recent highlight was a live "web-cam" featuring a "birds-eye view" of nesting peregrine falcons high atop a building in Jersey City. In addition, a "search" function allows visitors to quickly find the pages they're looking for and e-mail inquiries are individually responded to in a timely fashion.

Visit the Division of Fish and Wildlife's award-winning website at www.njfishandwildlife.com. Join the thousands of wildlife enthusiasts in New Jersey who already recognize the website as the best way to get up to date information on New Jersey's fish and wildlife resource.

10 NEW CONSERVATION OFFICERS GRADUATE FROM POLICE ACADEMY

The Division of Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Law Enforcement announced the graduation of 10 new conservation officers from two state-accredited police academies in Morris and Burlington counties last month. The individuals were required to complete the mandatory 22-week Police Training Commission Course, which began in January.

Upon graduation from the Morris County Police Academy, Officers Frank Panico, Shannon Martiak, Douglas Applegate, Adam Sennick and Steve Losey have been assigned to the Northern Region and will fill vacancies that were created by several retirements and promotions. At the graduation ceremony Officer Applegate, a resident of Piscataway, was honored with an award for achieving the second highest academic average in the class which consisted of 52 officers from various police departments in the region.

Graduating from the Burlington County Police Academy, Officers Tracy Stites and Zane Batten have been assigned to the Southern Region, Officers Jean Mutone and Jason Snellbaker have been assigned to the Marine Region, and Officer Thomas O'Rourke will patrol the Central Region. The graduating class consisted of 25 officers from various police departments in the southern region. At the ceremony Officer Stites, a resident of Alloway, was honored with the Top Gun Award for marksmanship and the Professionalism Award given by academy staff. Officer O'Rourke, a resident of Allentown, received the second place Director's Achievement Award for overall average which included physical training, firearms and academics, and the second place award for physical training. Officer Batten, a resident of Bridgeton, received an award for being third in the firearms phase of the training.



Left to right: Chief Rob Winkler, Officers Zane Batten, Jason Snellbaker, Jean Mutone, Thomas O'Rourke, Tracy Stites and Deputy Chief Ed Markowski.



Left to right: Captain Glenn Hawkswell, Deputy Chief Ed Markowski, Officers Adam Sennick, Douglas Applegate, Steve Losey, Frank Panico, Shannon Martiak, Chief Rob Winkler and Lieutenant Don Cole.

Last October, the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Law Enforcement provisionally appointed the 10 full-time conservation officers to bring the number of field officers, which had suffered due to several retirements and position vacancies, closer to full capacity.

After having successfully completed a rigorous interview process and screening, the individuals attended the Bureau's six week in-service training academy where they received classes in arrest, search and seizure, defense tactics, fish and wildlife law enforcement statutes, court room testimony and other related topics. In addition, they completed a mandatory 40-hour firearm qualification course for both handgun and shotgun.

After graduation from the bureau academy, each officer was assigned a certified field training officer for several weeks of instruction afield prior to attending the Police Academy. After the Police Academy, the conservation officers again reported to their respective field training officer and must now complete a one-year probationary period.

All conservation officers must possess the minimum requirement of a Bachelor of Science Degree in biology or natural resource management with 18 credits in fish and wildlife science, plus one year's experience in law enforcement, wildlife or environmental science. Division conservation officers possess full police powers within the State of New Jersey.

GOOD NEWS FOR NJ PHEASANT HUNTERS

Jim Ackerman, Superintendent of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Rockport Game farm reports this year's successful pheasant hatches have us on track to produce a record number of birds for the 2001 pheasant season. The birds are the result of seven hatches staggered through the spring and early summer. As they mature, birds are moved to the 34 acres of outdoor pens. Here the birds grow under the protection of the thick cover of sorghum and sunflowers. Jim indicates this year's production target of 55,000 birds will be a record for the farm. These birds will be stocked on 25 Wildlife Management Areas throughout the state.

The birds raised at the Rockport facility are a special strain of pheasant developed through a twenty year breeding program by game farm personnel. The birds are an engineered blend of the English Ringneck Pheasant, the Korean Green Pheasant, the Mongolian Pheasant, and Black Necked Pheasant. The best traits of each breed have been selected to produce our current strain which hold well for dogs and have a heart-stopping explosive flight and remarkably handsome appearance. Their rapid flight has earned them the well-deserved name of "Rockport Rockets" among those who hunt them.

These birds will be stocked on Wildlife Management Areas across the state beginning in early November for the pheasant season opener on November 11. The last stocking will occur on December 29. Additional information on stocking locations will be available on the Division's web page at www.njfishandwildlife.com or by calling the Division at (609) 984-0457. These

stockings provide almost two months of opportunity for the upland hunter.

Hunters must have a pheasant/quail stamp in possession in addition to the regular firearm hunting license to hunt for pheasants on the stocked wildlife management areas. The cost for the stamp is \$40 which provides over 6 weeks of hunting birds that are stocked three days each week on most of the 25 WMA's. This stocking regimen amounts to 16 stocking days at a cost of \$2.50 per stocking day to the individual hunter. For a mere \$2.50 per day the stamp buyer gets a place to hunt that has been stocked with one of America's finest strains of game farm pheasants. In addition to this, the pheasant/quail stamp provides the opportunity to pursue 11,000 quail that are purchased and stocked on 17 days spread over two months. The quail are stocked on two south jersey WMA's, Peaslee and Greenwood Forest, where portions of the areas are managed specifically for quail.

Hunters concerned by crowding should schedule their hunts after lunchtime when most hunters have gone for the day or on off-days when birds are not stocked. Surveys show that opening time hunters on stocking days take only 50% of the birds that were stocked for that day. As a result there should be enough birds to provide rewarding outings for afternoon hunters and those hunting non-stocking days. Take advantage of this quality hunting experience and New Jersey's best hunting bargain by purchasing a pheasant/quail stamp and hunting the Wildlife Management Areas this season.

Fish and Wildlife Digest Errors

The various issues of the Fish and Wildlife Digest contain a large amount of complex regulatory information that is passed back and forth from staff to editor to publisher. Inevitably, errors occur that our readers and staff bring to our attention. Please check our website where we will post corrections to the errors in each issue that have been brought to our attention. This information can also be obtained by calling (609) 292-9450.

DIVISION PROVIDES 500,000 WARMWATER FISH FOR NEW JERSEY WATERS IN 2001

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife stocked more than 400,000 warmwater fish in selected ponds, lakes, rivers and reservoirs throughout the state during June and July. Another 100,000 fish will be stocked in late summer and fall. The stockings are part of the Division's new and improved warmwater fisheries program, which is starting to pay dividends from several years of extensive renovations to the Hackettstown Hatchery.

"The Hackettstown Hatchery is now a state-of-the-art facility comparable to the Pequest trout hatchery,"

said Division Director Bob McDowell. "Warmwater fish that were previously raised in small indoor tanks are now raised in large modern tanks inside a newly constructed aquaculture building that includes a complex system of pumps, filters, heat exchangers and water temperature control systems. The renovations were the result of Green Acres Bond funding and we are pleased to offer the fruits of these labors to anglers all summer long."

The Division annually hatches more than 1.6 million warmwater and coolwater fish at the Hackettstown

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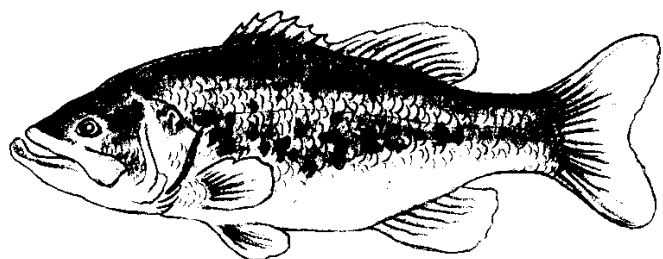
WARMWATER FISH (continued)

hatchery of which over 600,000 are released as fingerlings and advanced fingerlings in New Jersey's lakes, ponds and reservoirs throughout the year. Last year alone the facility reared and released record numbers of game fish fingerlings and advanced fingerlings including 165,000 walleye, 30,000 muskies, 37,000 pike and 75,000 smallmouth, largemouth and hybrid striped bass.

The new aquaculture building at Hackettstown allows the Division to raise fish that are healthier and larger in the same amount of time it took using the old facilities. For example, tiger muskies raised at Hackettstown in 1999 were eight inches when stocked. The tigers raised in the new building in 2000 were 37% percent larger (11 inches) when they were stocked. Stocking larger fish means more fish in the future for Garden State anglers because the size at stocking is a key factor in how many fish will survive and mature into adults.

Although the renovation of the warmwater and coolwater rearing facilities at the Hackettstown Hatchery are recent, the Division's expansion of its warmwater and coolwater fish program has taken place over the last 20 years. This has resulted in the establishment of five new game fish populations that include tiger muskies, pure strain muskies, northern pike, walleye and hybrid striped bass. The improvements at Hackettstown promise to make the excellent warmwater and coolwater fishing opportunities the Division has already established statewide even better in the near future.

Listed on this page are the fish that have been stocked through July of this year. During the latter part of the summer and in autumn, approximately 100,000 more fish will be stocked including hybrid striped bass (34,500), muskellunge (4,400), tiger muskellunge (6,600), walleye (10,000), channel catfish (40,000) and lake trout (3,250).



Date	Location	# Fish	Avg. Length (inches)
Channel Catfish			
4/3	Hook's Creek Lake	250	14.9
	Holmdel Park Pond	75	14.9
	Hamilton Fire Co. Pond	50	14.9
	Echo Lake	150	14.9
	Heritage Park Pond	150	14.9
	West Pond	75	14.9
4/5	Roosevelt Pond	300	14.9
	Milton Lake	300	14.9
	Echo Park Pond (Lower)	180	14.9
	Diamond Mill Pond	125	14.9
4/6	Woolmans Lake	350	14.9
	Laurel Pond	350	14.9
4/10	Silas Condit Park Pond	500	14.9
	Whites Pond	300	14.9
4/12	Duck Pond	75	14.9
	West Hudson Park Pond	110	14.9
4/17	Amwell Lake	400	15.7
	Colonial Lake	400	15.7
4/20	Lake Ocquittunk	250	15.7
Northern Pike:			
7/5	Budd Lake	3,750	7.0
	Cranberry Lake	1,795	7.4
7/9	Pompton Lake	2,040	6.8
	Pompton River	2,000	6.8
	Passaic River	4,550	6.9
7/10	Spruce Run Reservoir	6,500	7.0
7/11	Farrington Lake	3,280	6.9
7/12	Millstone River	1,600	7.0
	Deal Lake	1,600	7.0
7/13	Passaic River	1,150	7.0
Walleye:			
6/6	Lake Hopatcong	136,000	2.0
6/7	Greenwood Lake	96,000	2.0
6/14	Delaware River	90,000	2.0
6/20	Greenwood Lake	3,000	2.0
	Delaware River	7,750	2.0
7/25	Monksville Reservoir	10,200	3.9
7/26	Canistear Reservoir	7,170	3.8
8/1	Swartswood Lake	9,940	4.0
Tiger Muskies:			
7/6	Delaware River	5,040	5.6
Hybrid Striped Bass:			
7/30	Spruce Run Reservoir	12,920	3.9
Largemouth Bass:			
7/18	Dealamin Pond	500	2.2
7/19	Woodstown Lake	3,500	2.2
	Daretown Lake	1,500	2.2
	E. Creek Lake	3,000	2.2
	Spruce Run Reservoir	1,650	2.2
Smallmouth bass:			
7/13	Spruce Run Reservoir	4,000	2.5
7/19	Spruce Run Reservoir	1,000	2.0
	Union Lake	85	15.0
			(breeders)